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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

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SUBJECT Civilian Defense Organization

DATE DISTR.

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1. A Civilian Defense organization, commonly called CO (Civilni ochrana), was started in 1952 as a voluntary nation-wide organization of men and women, exempt from military service, who have attained the age of 19 years. CO headquarters are in Prague; regional and district CO headquarters are subordinated to it. So-called self-help groups (skupiny svepomoci), subordinate to the district headquarters, exist in factories and other large establishments. Fire-fighting groups, (consisting of six members, were formed in apartment houses.
2. The general manager or an official of the factory automatically becomes commander of the self-help group. The commander appoints his deputy and the commanders of the individual teams. His teams are classified according to their tasks:
  - a. Teams for maintaining order (poradkove druzstvo), which are charged with the following duties:
    - (1). They will prevent panic during air raid alarms.
    - (2). They will organize the movement of people to shelters and safe places.
    - (3). They will see that order is maintained during the actual air raid to prevent criminal elements, including Western agents, from exploiting the situation for their own ends.
    - (4). During air raids the teams will form stationary and mobile patrols, on the roofs of buildings, at the entrance to the factories or at other significant places, immediately to ascertain damage and to direct the other teams to the spot.
    - (5). After the air raid, members of this team will inspect their particular sector, look for unexploded bombs and make the necessary safety arrangements until the arrival of special bomb-disposal units.
  - b. Fire-fighting team (pozarni hlikdy). Members of this team are firemen. All fire-extinguishing equipment at the factory is placed at their disposal. They must know the exact location of all water tanks and of the equipment. The size of this team varies according to the size of the factory.

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- c. First-aid team. This team is provided with medical kits. Members must undergo first aid courses.
  - d. Anti-chemicals team (protichemicke druzstvo). Members of this team are trained in anti-gas defense. They are taught to recognize the various gases and the defense against them. Equipment for these teams was supplied in 1953, consisting of respirators, protective capes and the so called "personal kit", with tablets against gas-poisoning. Every member of the team is supposed to be in possession of such a kit.
  - e. Air raid shelter team. This team is responsible for the maintenance of safety in the shelters. They inspect entrances and ventilation and examine whether the shelters are adequate in all respects. All teams receive a special course on the effects of bombs and the resistance of the buildings.
  - f. Technical team. This team goes into action after the air raid and performs the most urgent rescue work until the arrival of regular rescue parties consisting of "volunteers". Failure to respond is punishable.
3. The personnel of each team depends on the size of the establishment. In some small establishments the duties are not so clearly prescribed and some of the teams are not even in existence. This applies mainly to the shelter team, whose duties are carried out by the order-maintaining team, and to the technical team, whose tasks may be taken over by the fire-fighting team. The first-aid and the anti-chemical teams may also be joined into one.
  4. Equipment: Members of the self-help groups wear plain clothes. Their equipment consists of steel helmet, respirator, personal kit and of the technical equipment of their particular teams, such as stretchers, pickaxe, etc. They will be issued special identity cards empowering them to perform numerous duties during air raid and the same rule applies to all vehicles, except military, police, fire-trucks and ambulances which will be provided with special permits.
  5. Training for commanders of groups and teams was held between October 1952 and April 1953. The courses lasted 40 to 50 hours. On weekdays training was held after working hours, and on Saturdays participants were excused from work. Lectures were delivered by both military and civilian experts. These courses dealt only with the theoretical aspects of the problems. Air raid tests will be probably held in the latter part of 1953. [REDACTED] as soon as the technical equipment and necessary funds were supplied, practical exercises would commence.
  6. Recruitment drive: The CSM (Union of Youth) and the Svazarm (Union for Co-operation with the Army) were mainly concerned with the recruitment of CO personnel. The Communist Party also forced its members to take an active part in the CO.
  7. Reaction of the public: About 50% of the population took these steps seriously. The rest regarded membership in the CO as a good excuse for avoiding Saturday work. About 60% of all CO members were women, 15 to 60 years. The majority of the 40% of male members are young people, not yet liable for military service. Some were partly disabled.

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COUNTRY USSR (Krasnoyarsk Kray)

SUBJECT 1. Copper Refinery at Norilsk  
2. Prison Camps at Norilsk

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1. During 1949, prisoners from Labor Camp No. 4 at Norilsk (N 69-20, E 88-06) worked on the construction of a very large copper refinery, said to be the largest in the USSR. By the spring of 1950, the refinery had been completed and was in operation, using convict labor, but not political prisoners.
2. Between 1949 and 1953, prisoners from Labor Camps Nos. 4 and 2 were employed at Norilsk, mining iron ore, copper, and coal. Camp No. 4 was a labor camp for political prisoners, and consisted of 6,000 to 8,000 prisoners, of whom about 400 were Estonians. Camp No. 2 consisted of about 3,000 prisoners, including about 200 Estonians.

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